

II. REMARKS

A. Introduction

In this Office Action claims 6-8 and 17 are noted as being allowed or allowable, and claims 1-5, 9-16 and 18-24 are rejected.

In summary of this Response, claims 6, 9-16 and 18-27 are canceled, claims 1 and 7 are amended, new claims 25 and 26 are added to afford a differing scope of protection for the invention to which the applicants are entitled, and remarks are provided.

B. The Claims

The allowance of original independent claims 7 and 17, and claim 8 depending from claim 7, is acknowledged. Claim 7 is further amended herein solely for grammar purposes, i.e., changing “devices” to –device–, as in claims 1 and 17.

In regard to the allowability of dependent claim 6, same has been canceled, but the subject matter thereof has been added to independent claim 1, which renders claims 1-5 allowable.

A new method claim 25, corresponding generally to the allowable “system” independent claim 1, has been added and should also be allowable.

Similarly, a new method claim 26 based generally on allowed “unit” independent claim 17 is also added and should be allowable.

III. CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5, 7, 8, 17, 25 and 26 are now in condition for allowance.

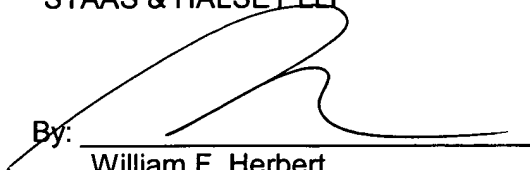
If there are any additional fees associated with this Response, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this Response, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone conference with the Examiner to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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